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COMMENT ON FALL OF INDONESIAN CABINET

According to press reports, Indonesia's coalition cabinet, headed by Wilopo of the National Party fell on 2 June. Previous reports indicate that the cabinet fell over the issue of land distribution in North Sumatra.

The National Party and the Masjumi, the largest of the political organizations represented in the Indonesian parliament, have consistently differed on basic issues. These differences and the opportunistic tactics pursued by the former which included increasing cooperation with the Communists, produced a situation of chronic instability.

A succeeding cabinet will undoubtedly include the National Party but will not necessarily be more to the left than the Wilopo government. It is possible that President Sukarno will ask the conservative wing of the Masjumi, unrepresented in the Wilopo cabinet, to cooperate with the PNI in forming a new government. Previous experience indicates that a considerable period may elapse before a new government is formed.

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